

Message Text

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16

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

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USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /130 W

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P R 101056Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9027

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 4503

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, SF

SUBJECT: BANNING OF DR. MANUS BUTHELEZI

REF: A) DURBAN 0433; B) PRETORIA 4263; C) STATE 233480

1. SAG BANNING OF BLACK THEOLOGIAN, DR. MANUS BUTHELEZI, HAS DRAWN SHARP RESPONSES FROM VARIETY OF SOURCES.

SPEAKING TO SOUTH AFRICAN ARGUS PRESS CORRESPONDENT IN ADDIS ABABA CHIEF GATSHA BUTHELEZI SAID, "I AM ANGUISHED BY THE BANNING ORDER ON MY FIRST COUSIN AND BY A SPATE OF BANNING ORDERS." HE CHALLENGED ANYONE, "INCLUDING THOSE WHO HAVE BANNED HIM," TO SAY THAT DR. BUTHELEZI IS SUBVERSIVE IN ANY WAY.

2. ENGLISH-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS HERE HAVE REPORTED THAT LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION ISSUED STRONG PROTEST IN GENEVA OVER BANNING OF DR. BUTHELEZI. PROTEST WAS DELIVERED TO MEMBER OF SOUTH AFRICAN UN MISSION IN GENEVA. IT STATED THAT BANNING SWRENGTHENS FEAR THAT THERE IS AN "OFFICIAL INCLINATION TO PERSECUTE CHRISTIANS FOR THEIR WITNESS."

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3. REV. A.W. HABELGAARN, PRESIDENT OF FEDERATION OF EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCHES IN SOUTH AFRICA, HAS ALSO ISSUED STATEMENT CONDEMNING BUTHELEZI'S BANNING. IN ADDITION SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES HAS WARNED SAG THAT BANNING OF PEOPLE LIKE BUTHELEZI WOULD CREATE HOSTILITY AND RESENTMENT AND WOULD INCITE SOUTH AFRICAN BLACKS. REV. BEYERS NAUDE, DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE, HAS STATED THAT IF SAG HAD FOUND REASON TO BAN DR. BUTHELEZI, "WE AT THE CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE WILL JUST HAVE TO ACCEPT THAT SIMILAR ACTION MIGHT BE TAKEN AGAINST US." HE CHALLENGED DUTCH REFORMED CHURCHES TO CONDEMN THE BANNING.

4. DECEMBER 11 RAND DAILY MAIL REPORTS THAT DR. BUTHELEZI CONDUCTED NORMAL SERVICE AT HIS LUTHERAN CHURCH YESTERDAY. APPARENTLY BANNING ORDER, WHICH PROHIBITS HIM FROM ATTENDING CERTAIN KINDS OF GATHERINGS, DOES NOT PREVENT HIM FROM PREACHING AT CHURCHSERVICES. NEVERTHELESS, IN EDITORIAL IN ITS SAME EDITION, MAIL WARNS THAT BANNING OF PEOPLE LIKE BUTHELEZI UNDERCUTS RESPONSIBLE BLACK LEADERSHIP AND ENGENDERS A "CONSPIRATORIAL SOCIETY" WHICH ADDS TO RISK TO SECURITY OF ALL SOUTH AFRICANS.

5. GOVERNMENT GAZETTE ISSUED DECEMBER 7 LISTS 14 PERSONS WHO HAVE BEEN BANNED IN RECENT MONTHS. LIST INCLUDES FOUR INDIVIDUALS WHOSE BANNINGS HAVE NOT BEEN REPORTED PREVIOUSLY BY EMBASSY. IT ALSO INCLUDES RENEWAL OF BANNING ON YUSUF CACHALIA, FORMER LEADER OF SOUTH AFRICAN INDIAN CONGRESS, WHO HAS BEEN UNDER BANNING RESTRICTIONS SINCE 1963. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY, TOTAL OF KNOWN BANNINGS THIS YEAR NOW NUMBERS 68.

6. COMMENT: LATEST BANNINGS, ESPECIALLY THAT OF DR. BUTHELEZI, UNDERSCORES PACE AND EXTENT OF REPRESSIVE ACTIONS SAG HAS BEEN TAKING. IT ALSO BRINGS INTO SHARP FOCUS EMBASSY'S RECOMMENDATION TO DEPARTMENT ON THIS MATTER (REFTEL B).

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